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Hurricanes Katrina and Rita:

The Unwatering of New Orleans

Colonel Duane Gapinski, P.E.

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Management Structure Information

- Pre-Katrina Memphis District responsible for unwatering.
- Post-Katrina Task Force Unwatering established with Rock Island District responsible for mission.
  - Commander-Rock Island District
  - Project Managers-New Orleans District
  - Environmental Specialist
  - Contractors
  - H/L Crews
  - National Guard/Military
  - State and Local governments
  - FEMA, EPA and Coast Guard
  - Foreign Assets

Task Force Unwatering

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Gravity Drainage

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Gravity Drainage

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Breach Repairs

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Breach Repairs

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Temporary Control Structures

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Temporary Control Structures

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Temporary Control Structures

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Repair Pump Stations

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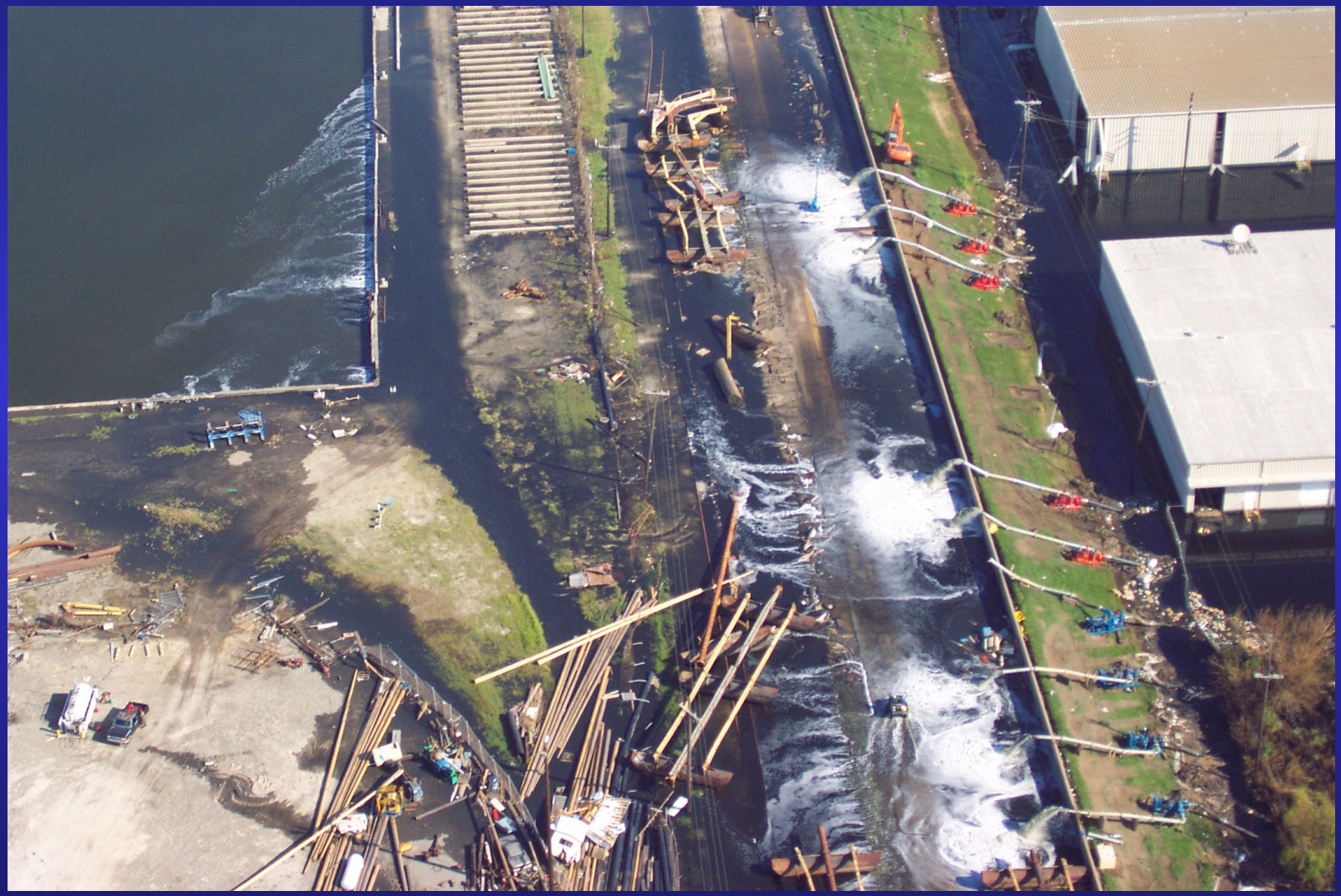
Temporary Pumps



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Environmental Considerations

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Environmental Considerations

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Intermediate Repairs

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Intermediate Repairs

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Intermediate Repairs

Lessons Learned

- Creation of Task Force Unwatering
- Manage by Parish/Drainage Basin
- Use of Temporary Pump Units
- Communication Challenges
- Information Demand/Management
- Environmental Coordination

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Task Force Unwatering 2006

Command

- Rock Island District Responsible for Unwatering Mission.

Mission

- Unwater the Greater New Orleans Area so traditional recovery operations can begin.
  - Jefferson
  - Orleans
  - St. Bernards
  - Plaquemines
  - LaFourche
  - St. Charles
  - Terrebonne
  - St. Tammany
  - St. James
  - St. John the Baptist
  - St. Mary

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Initial Response-2 Phase

- **Phase 1-Evacuation of MVN (72 Hrs)**
  - TFU Commander and Deputy deploy to Port Allen
  - Unwatering Action Officer deploys to State EOC
  - Remainder of Task Force receives Warning Order
- **Phase 2-If Hurricane Floods the Area**
  - Activate Remainder of Task Force
  - Initiate Damage Assessment from Baton Rogue
  - Deploy to MVN District Office or Temp Office ASAP

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Task Force Unwatering 2006

Management Structure

- Commander and Deputy-Rock Island District
- Project Managers-New Orleans District
- Environmental Specialist
- Contractors
- H/L Crews
- National Guard/Military
- State and Local governments
- FEMA, EPA and Coast Guard

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Unwatering Methodology

- Establish Priorities w/Local, State, & Federal
- Gravity Drainage
- Breach Repairs
- Restoration of Power to Pump Stations
- Restoration of Pump Stations
- Temporary Pumps
- Intermediate Repairs

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Available Resources

- National Guard/Military
- Contractors/Suppliers
- Hired Labor Crews
- International Support (?)

Environmental Considerations

- Minimize Environmental Impacts
  - Aeration
  - Coordinate Oil Boom Placement with Coast Guard
- Monitor Water Quality
- Coordinate Issues with Local, State, Federal & Private Industry

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Unwatering Coordination

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QUESTIONS